

Information Alert

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What's New

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ARTICLE ALERT

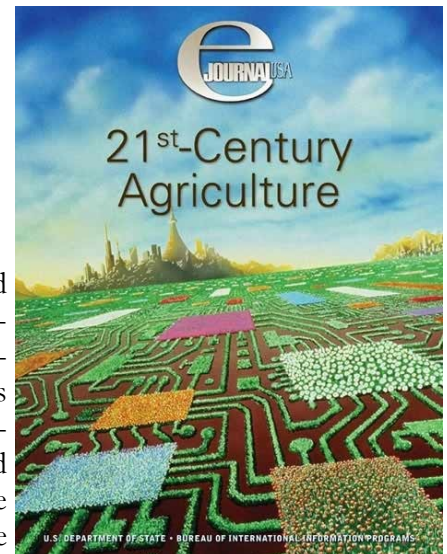
2-1/H

21-CENTURY AGRICULTURE

eJournal USA, Vol. 15, No. 3, Department of State, March 2010.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0310.html>

The human population today stands at an estimated 6.8 billion, of whom an estimated 1.02 billion are undernourished. How we fashion a 21st-century agriculture capable of feeding them is the subject of this eJournal USA. The voices collected here include scientists, administration officials, and Indian and American winners of the World Food Prize. More broadly, 21st-century agriculture represents a noble application of our collective human ingenuity.



2-2/H

U.S. HISTORY IN BRIEF

Department of State, February 2010.

This book is the learner's edition of our U.S.A. History in Brief. It will teach you about important events in the history of the United States. You also will find many beautiful pictures of the events and people who shaped that history. This is the first in a series of books to help people learn the English language. Each of our Learner English books will have a different topic that teaches readers about the United States and helps them understand new words. In the print and PDF online editions of this book some words will appear in boldface type. You will find their meanings, or definitions, in a brightly colored box on the same page, along with examples of how to use the word. Each chapter in this HTML edition is accompanied by an audio file of a native speaker reading that chapter. If you listen while you read, you can hear exactly how each word is pronounced when you see it.



2-3/DGI**100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD (The Making of the TIME 100)****By Marco Grob****Time; Vol. 175, No. 15, April 19, 2010, pp. 40-160.**

Time 100, pays homage to honorees in four categories: artists, leaders, thinkers, and heroes. Some of the people you'll encounter on this list are influential in the traditional sense — heads of state like Barack Obama, corporate leaders like Robin Li, CEO of the Chinese search-engine company Baidu. But the magazine also sought out people whose ideas and actions are revolutionizing their fields and transforming lives - like Matt Berg, who is using text-messaging technology to improve community health monitoring in Africa, and Rahul Singh, whose organization GlobalMedic was among the first on the ground after January's Haiti earthquake, providing millions of gallons of water to those most in need. You might not have heard their names before, but their innovations and efforts will help change the world for years to come.

2-4/DGI**125 WOMEN WHO CHANGED OUR WORLD****Good House Keeping, Vol. 250, No. 5, May 2010.**

Some made music, some made noise, all made a difference. We celebrate 125 women who, during the past 125 years, broke records, broke ground, blazed trails, and suffered trials, shattering ceilings of glass and even tougher stuff. While some are obvious choices and some obscure, all acted to increase our liberty, safety, and prosperity. One of them makes the best lemon meringues pie ever. We honor these matron saints whose work continues to bring pleasure, save lives, and widen the scope of little girl's dreams.

2-5/DGI**CLIMATE CHANGE: A controlled Experiment****By Stan Wullschleger and others****Scientific American, Vol. 302, No. 3, March 2010.**

Scientists have carefully manipulated grasslands and forests to see how precipitation, carbon dioxide and temperature changes affect the biosphere, allowing them to forecast the future. Researchers are altering

temperature, carbon dioxide and precipitation levels across plots of forests, grasses and crops to see how plant life responds. Warmer temperatures and higher CO2 concentrations generally result in more leaf growth or crop yield, but these factors can also raise insect infestation and weaken plants' ability to ward off pests and disease. Future field experiments that can manipulate all three conditions at once will lead to better models of how long-term climate changes will affect ecosystems worldwide.

2-6/DGI**THE CRASH OF '08.****By Laurence Whitehead****Journal of Democracy, Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2010, pp. 45-56.**

The article presents an analysis of the global financial crisis which began in 2008, focusing on the relationship between democracy and the regulatory institutions which implement economic policies. The macro-economic trends related to the crisis are outlined, and it is noted that signs of economic recovery do not constitute solutions to the systemic or structural problems which caused the crisis. It is argued that attempts to insulate regulators from transient political pressures have only made them more likely to pliantly service the financial industry.

2-7/DGI**IT'S THE CONTENT, STUPID****By Steven Smith and others****American Libraries, Vol. 41, No. 1-2, January/February 2010, pp. 48-51.**

The authors, both associated with Texas A&M University Libraries, believe that libraries and librarians have an important stake in the development of online scholarship. Many benefits will come from the growth of digital monographs and journals as well as the development of scholarly websites, online archives, blogs, wikis, and other outlets for research even farther afield from the traditional models. Digital scholarship may be non-linear, unstructured, or open-ended, and it is often software-intensive and multimedia; more remains to be done before libraries can preserve digital content with the same degree of confidence as print.

2-8/DGI

'HAYSTACK' GIVES IRANIAN OPPOSITION HOPE FOR EVADING INTERNET CENSORSHIP

By Scott Peterson

Christian Science Monitor, posted April 16, 2010.

Opposition activists in Iran are beginning to deploy "Haystack" – encryption software they hope will defeat extensive government efforts to block popular mobilization on the Internet inside the country. Haystack is custom-made for Iran in San Francisco by the nonprofit Censorship Research Center and is the first anti-censorship technology to be licensed by the U.S. government for export to Iran. Twitter and Facebook have played crucial roles in helping protesters organize, but Iranian "cyber police" successfully shut down the ability of Iranians to communicate with each other via the Internet. Haystack's encryption data is similar to accessing a bank website.

2-9/DGI

MUSLIMS AND SCIENCE: Contributions of Islamic Universities to Professional Ethics

By Ibrahim Olatunde Uthman

American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences, Vol. 27, No. 1, Winter 2010, pp. 54-73.

It is sad and paradoxical that Muslims, who were once the precursors and torchbearers of the scientific knowledge that culminated in modern civilization, are today wallowing in a state of backwardness, ignorance and domination. Despite their global numerical strength of over one billion people, only a few Muslim countries are currently making any significance strides in shaping contemporary civilization and the state of the world. This paper examines how the Islamic concept of *khilafah* (vice-gerency) can be employed to revive the Islamic science so that it can sustain human and other creatures in a wholesome manner.

2-10/DGI

NURTURING THE ACCUMULATION OF INNOVATIONS: Lessons from the Internet

National Bureau of Economic Research. Shane Greenstein. April 2010.

The innovations that became the foundation for the Internet originate from two eras that illustrate two distinct models for accumulating innovations over the long haul. The pre-commercial era illustrates the op-

eration of several useful non-market institutional arrangements. The commercial era highlights the extraordinary power of market-oriented and widely distributed investment and adoption, which illustrates the power of market experimentation to foster innovative activity.

2-11/DGI

REPRESSION GOES DIGITAL

By Joel Simon

Columbia Journalism Review, Vol. 48, No. 6, March/April 2010.

The Internet provides avenues for journalism and free speech, but it has also become a chokepoint for free press as oppressive governments exploit vulnerable areas in the information environment. Iran, Burma, China, Vietnam and Tunisia are governments which deny Internet access, practice censorship, or use monitoring technology to identify and persecute activists; Nokia Siemens, a Finnish-German joint venture, has sold Iran such technology. The author lauds Google's recent stand in China to refuse to comply with government censorship. Broad international coalitions of journalists and others — including governments — concerned about press freedom are important to maintain pressure on repressive governments to ensure dissident voices continue to be heard.

2-12/DGI

THE RIPPLE EFFECT: Widening the Library's Circle of Influence

By Tom Storey

OCLC's Next Space, No. 14, January 2010, pp. 4-10.

Libraries, out of necessity, have had to extend their reach beyond traditional boundaries in order to better reach users in new and compelling ways. Connecting with users is essential to the mission of libraries but building civic, commercial and governmental support is key to their survival. The ripple effect, as it were, needs to come full circle, touching everyone who is involved in the success of libraries and helping to show the links between support and service. To achieve this, there are four essential components of such advocacy: Passion, Planning, Partnerships, and Promotion.

2-13/DGI

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, FIFTEEN FINDINGS

By Philippe C. Schmitter

Journal of Democracy, Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2010, pp. 17-28.

The article discusses worldwide trends in democratization, from 1989 to 2009. The triumph of democracy over authoritarianism in a range of countries is analyzed, focusing on cases from Latin America and Europe. It is argued that the process of democratization has been relatively easy in many cases, largely because of the growing perception among elite groups that democracy can serve their interests at least as well as authoritarianism. The importance of civil society and political parties is also analyzed.

2-14/DGI

UNDER THE WORLD'S GREATEST CITIES, DEADLY PLATES

By Joel Achenbach

Washington Post, February 23, 2010.

In 1800, only one city in the world had more than a million people, Beijing. Last year, humanity reached a turning point, when more people lived in cities than rural areas; today, there are 381 cities with over a million residents each. Over 400 million people worldwide live in large cities that face significant seismic hazards, and the author writes that strong earthquakes, such as those that recently struck central Chile and Port-au-Prince, Haiti, will extract an increasing human toll due to the growing global trend toward urbanization. Achenbach notes that it is not the earthquake itself, but buildings, often poorly constructed, that kill people.

2-15/DGI

U.S. INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE GLOBAL INTERNET FREEDOM: Issues, Policy, and Technology

By Patricia Moloney Figliola

CRS, Library of Congress, April 5, 2010.

Modern means of communications, led by the Internet, provide a relatively inexpensive, open, easy-entry means of sharing ideas, information, pictures, and text around the world. In a political and human rights context, in closed societies when the more established, formal news media is denied access to or does not report on specified news events, the Internet has become an alternative source of media, and sometimes a

means to organize politically.

2-16/DGI

WORLD AT WAR OVER WATER

Alexander Bell

New Statesman, March 28, 2010.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/environment/2010/03/water-cyprus-pakistan-yemen>

The most bitter conflicts of the next 50 years won't be over oil. The prize commodity of the future is the stuff of life – water. How we manage it now will determine if we'll survive tomorrow. Yemen and Pakistan, countries that the west thinks of as centres of fundamentalist terrorism, both have critically unstable economies in large part because of water shortage. The UN thinks that Yemen will become the first nation to run out of water, possibly as soon as 2015. Pakistan, meanwhile, had huge wealth and population booms after Partition in August 1947, thanks to the irrigation schemes of the Indus. These allowed an increase in the cotton yield and rice crop. But those schemes are now salting up, and the Indus is reduced to a pathetic trickle as it reaches the sea. In Yemen and Pakistan, there is rural unemployment, slum growth and discontent.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

2-17/IS

AFGHANISTAN: Building the Missing Link in the Modern Silk Road

By Andrew C. Kuchins and others

The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 33, No. 2, April 2010, pp. 33-47.

In the fall of 2009, the Obama administration undertook a lengthy review of its strategy for the war in Afghanistan that resulted in the controversial decision to increase the U.S. force presence by 30,000 troops in 2010 and to begin withdrawal in July 2011. Most of the spirited public debate revolves around security challenges, such as the number of troops, and choosing a balance between counterinsurgency or counterterrorism strategies. This is understandable given the major investments of blood and treasure the United States will continue to make in the effort to stabilize Afghanistan and root out terrorist threats. But even if U.S. and coalition forces are successful in bringing

greater security to Afghanistan, these gains will be short-lived if the United States does not develop a more comprehensive regional strategy now. This strategy must go beyond “AfPak” and should make the longer-term economic viability of Afghanistan as high a priority as increasing its near-term security.

2-18/IS

BRINGING INDIA’S DREAM TO FRUITION

By T.P. Sreenivasan

The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 33, No. 2, April 2010, pp. 169-179.

Global zero, or a world without nuclear weapons, is not just a desirable goal; it is an imperative for the survival of mankind. A nuclear war between nations is unlikely. Most strategists and nations rule out the use of nuclear weapons as an instrument of war. But the alarming picture of a terrorist holding a particular country or region, or even the whole world, to ransom by threatening to use a nuclear weapon looms large on the horizon. Instability in countries that possess nuclear weapons is a cause of particular concern. Even the most elaborate command and control systems are not immune to viruses or hackers. Today’s civilization can be protected and preserved only if nuclear weapons and other lethal materials are eradicated. Nuclear technology itself must be defanged sooner rather than later to make it benign enough to serve mankind. In other words, Global Zero must have no caveats. The general reduction of tensions in the world and the U.S.-Indian nuclear deal, which has made India a partner rather than a target in nonproliferation and disarmament efforts, augur well for the Indian dream.

2-19/ IS

THE CARTER SYNDROME

By Walter Russell Mead

Foreign Policy, January/February 2010, pp. 58-64.

Throughout U.S. history, American presidents have adhered to four different philosophies in foreign policy, according to this analysis by a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. President Obama “has a split personality when it comes to foreign policy,” Meade writes, basing his beliefs on those of former presidents Thomas Jefferson and Woodrow Wilson. Jefferson believed in limited overseas entanglements, while Wilson wanted to spread democratic values in the interest of international stability. Meade reports that Jimmy Carter also wanted to believe that these two philosophies were compatible, but his presidency

ended with “incoherence and reversals” in his foreign policy record. In his inaugural address, Obama said “the choice between our safety and our ideals” is a false choice. But one year in, Meade said Obama has made decisions that are rooted in such a tradeoff. Meade gives Obama credit for his aspirations to devise a new grand strategic course for U.S. foreign policy in the decades to come, but foresees a “difficult and uncertain journey” ahead for the 44th president.

2-20/ IS

DETECTING AND DISRUPTING ILLICIT NUCLEAR TRADE AFTER A.Q. KHAN

By David Albright and others

The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 33, No. 2, April 2010, pp. 85-106.

That countries build nuclear weapons largely on their own is a common misperception. In fact, most states have depended heavily on overseas acquisition of vital equipment, materials, and know-how to create the industrial infrastructure to build nuclear weapons, a trend that continues today. Over the next few years, several states in dangerous parts of the world, along with terrorist organizations, are expected to seek these weapons. For most of these countries and certainly for terrorists, the pathway to obtaining or improving nuclear weapons remains through illicit nuclear trade. The United States and its international partners can act now to bolster the first line of defense against illicit nuclear trade, and prevent the further proliferation of nuclear weapons.

2-21/IS

FIGHTING RADICALISM, NOT

“TERRORISM”: Root Causes of an International Actor Redefined

By Omer Taspinar

SAIS Review, Vol. 29, No. 2, Summer-Fall 2009, pp. 75-86.

Taşpinar, Professor of National Security Studies at the National War College, asserts that while debate over the root causes of terrorism rages in the West, extremists continue to lure destitute radicals to their cause. Counter-terrorism needs to place the breeding grounds for these impoverished sympathizers at the center of their efforts. Fighting radicalism with social and economic development should become the new long-term objective for a smarter effort at strategic counter-terrorism.

2-22/IS

HOW TO HELP PAKISTAN

By Hilary Synnott

Survival, Vol. 52, No. 1, February/March 2010, pp. 17-23.

This article discusses ways to help Pakistan deal with its problems with insurgency and terrorism. Pakistan's problems go beyond its own borders and affect areas outside the country. The article explores the history of Pakistan in order to present an understanding of the country's political, economic and security-related problems. It is noted that Pakistan has no common unifying priority that its inhabitants have dealt with as India had done when it fought for independence from the rule of Great Britain.

2-23/IS

THE LONG ROAD TO ZERO

By Charles Ferguson

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 89, No. 1, January/February 2010, pp. 86-94.

The author notes that a clear bipartisan consensus has emerged in the Washington on the subject of nuclear security. At the same time, however, he poses an important question: In a world where the strongest conventional military power cannot envision giving up its nuclear weapons before all other nations have abandoned theirs, how will humanity ever rid itself of nuclear weapons? Ferguson, president of the Federation of American Scientists, writes of the importance of finding a way to obviate the prestige factor associated with possessing nuclear arms. He says that is what stands in the way of making progress towards President Obama's dream of nuclear weapons-free world.

2-24/IS

THE NEXT AMERICAN CENTURY

By Andres Martinez

Time, March 22, 2010, pp. 40-42.

The U.S. may have been weakened by economic troubles at home and draining military commitments overseas, but the author believes it will remain a world power for the foreseeable future. With only 5% of the world's population, the U.S. produces a quarter of the world's economic output. China continues to march toward Western notions of private property, and Beijing bets on America's future by stocking up on billions of dollars' worth of Treasury bills. The rise of a consumerist middle-class society in nations like China,

Brazil and India creates a more stable world, not to mention new markets for American products and culture. The U.S. continues to have a huge cultural impact globally and remains an inclusive superpower. Other nations are thriving under the Pax Americana, and the rise of second-tier powers makes the continued projection of U.S. might more welcome in certain neighborhoods.

2-25/IS

A NET OF KNOWLEDGE

Asia Pacific Defense Forum, Vol. 34, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2009, 16-21.

Reporting and rewards programs help catch elusive terrorists. In the community effort to capture known terrorist Mas Selamat Kastari, telecommunication companies in Singapore sent e-mails to 5.5 million subscribers with his photograph and description, plus a phone number to call to file a report. He was captured by Malaysian authorities in the village of Johor Bahru, across the border from Singapore. In the Philippines, the U.S. Counter-Terrorism Rewards Program, part of the larger anti-terrorism operation called the Rewards for Justice Program, has been very successful in getting leads on high-profile terrorist suspects. This U.S. State Department program pays for information leading to the arrest, capture and conviction of wanted terrorists, both in the United States and abroad; seeks information concerning finances, assets and plans of terrorist organizations; and relocates informants and their families. Since its inception in 1984, the Rewards for Justice Program has paid more than US \$77 million to more than fifty people who provided information about terrorists worldwide.

2-26/IS

THE SECURITY COSTS OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

By Gregory D. Miller

The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 33, No. 2, April 2010, pp. 107-119.

Most Americans accept that the United States' dependence on foreign oil, particularly from the Middle East, is dangerous and should be reduced if not eliminated. Although environmentalists have long called for reduced oil consumption because of the effects of fossil fuels on the environment, two other groups now share this goal, creating an unlikely alliance. One focuses on the economic costs of U.S. dependence on foreign oil, bemoaning the wealth that flows from the

United States to oil-exporting states annually (an estimated \$90–150 billion) and the lost opportunity for revenue from developing and selling alternative energy sources. The other group consists of those who, particularly after the September 11 attacks, see U.S. dependence on foreign oil as a source of strategic vulnerability, as well as a burden on U.S. foreign policy.

2-27/IS

SEEKING NUCLEAR SECURITY THROUGH GREATER INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION: An IIGG Working Paper

By Jack Boureston and others

Council on Foreign Relations Press, March 2010.

In April 2009, U.S. president Barack Obama identified nuclear terrorism as the gravest threat to the United States. But debates in the main decision-making bodies in Vienna and New York reveal strong resistance to measures that would strengthen the nuclear security regime. The authors offers suggestions to strengthen the nuclear security regime and achieve the four-year goal set by President Obama to secure all vulnerable nuclear materials around the world. The paper concludes that the time-consuming task of forging international consensus will be essential to preventing what Graham Allison has called “the ultimate preventable catastrophe” a nuclear terrorist attack.

2-28/IS

THE UNITED STATES AND ASIA IN 2009:

Public Diplomacy and Strategic Continuity

By François Godement

Asian Survey, Vol. 50, No. 1, January/February 2010, pp. 8-24.

In crafting an Asia policy during the first year of his presidency, Obama has faced the dilemma of continuing much of his predecessor's policies while answering public expectations for change. A military surge in Afghanistan after a long debate, an attempt to enhance strategic cooperation with China, a disappointing result for climate change policies, a better disposition toward regional organizations, and a growing concern with the course of Japan's alliance policy have been the main threads of a deeply pragmatic approach.

2-29/ES

CAN YOU LEARN TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR?

By David Whitford

Fortune Magazine online, March 11, 2010.

<http://www.fortune.com>

Can you learn to be an entrepreneur? Yes, says Gregg Fairbrothers, a former academic who is now the founding director of Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network. Entrepreneurs, he said, possess an identifiable set of traits (such as willingness to take risks), but entrepreneurs are defined more by how they do things than what they do. Entrepreneurship, he says is more about learning through experience. One thing this article makes clear is that courses in entrepreneurship have become very popular across the United States – two-thirds of U.S. colleges and universities now are teaching entrepreneurship courses.

2-30/ES

CRISIS? What crisis?

By Christian Caryl

Foreign Policy online, April 5, 2010.

<http://www.foreignpolicy.com>

Caryl, contributing editor to Foreign Policy, writes that when the financial crisis hit in 2008, there were dire predictions that millions of people in developing countries would fall back into poverty as a result of the collapse. However, that has not been the case; many of the emerging economies that have embraced globalization, learned the lessons of the financial crisis of the late 1990s, and have built healthy balance sheets, and have invested in health care and education instead of trying to artificially prop up the economy. Global trade is now more evenly spread around the world, with China a bigger market for Asian exporters than the U.S. Many developing countries' financial systems were less exposed to the complex edifice of derivatives that derailed Western banking systems. Caryl notes that the world is still a long way from conquering poverty, but concludes, “how remarkable it would be if we could one day look back on the 2008-2009 crisis as the beginning of a more equitable global economy.”

2-31/ES

FINDING YOUR STRATEGY IN THE NEW LANDSCAPE

By Pankhaj Ghemawat

Harvard Business Review, March 2010.

<http://www.hbr.org>

In the wake of the recent recession and financial crisis, global firms must change their strategic approach, says Ghemawat, a professor at IESE Business School in Barcelona. He outlines different aspects and elements of that approach — target markets and competition, products, operations, innovation, organizational structures, workers and reputation. Corporations must adapt their visions to a world where national differences are more pronounced than before and managing those differences is the primary challenge. Thus, companies need to put new emphasis on differentiation of their products and services and look anew at opportunities in underserved segments of the market. .

2-32/ES

GREEN ECONOMICS

By Paul Krugman

New York Times Magazine, April 11, 2010, pp. 34//49.

Krugman, Nobel Prize-winning economist, notes that we can afford to tackle climate change, but any serious solution must rely mainly on giving everyone a self-interested reason to produce fewer emissions. This is not fair, he says, but climate altruism must take a back seat to getting such a system in place. Rather than focus on climate change itself, it is necessary instead to understand climate economics, or rather the economics of lessening climate change. Ronald Reagan liked to talk about the magic of the marketplace but today conservatives now think that the marketplace loses its magic as soon as market incentives are invoked in favor of issues such as energy conservation.

2-33/ES

A SIMPLE MARKET MECHANISM TO CLEAN UP OUR ECONOMY

By Peter Barnes and others

Solutions, No. 1, January-February 2010.

A progressive and revolutionary plan for reducing carbon emissions called “cap-and-dividend” is outlined by the authors. Carbon permits would be auctioned, monthly dividends paid to citizens to help defray costs

of sustainable energy development and use. It would be transparent and simple to administer. “Markets currently assume the atmosphere can absorb an infinite amount of CO₂ since the price for emitting it is exactly zero. Capping the carbon supply will inform markets of nature’s limits,” they write, adding that the technological progress required will be easy compared to structuring the economics.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

2-34/SV

10 IDEAS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS TIME, March 11, 2010.

The Time provides a thinker's guide to the most important trends of the new decade. The trend includes: The Next American Century; Remapping the World; Bandwidth Is the New Black; Gold; The Dropout Economy; China and the U.S.: The Indispensable Axis; In Defense of Failure; The White Anxiety Crisis; TV Will Save the World; The Twilight of the Elites, and; The Boring Age.

2-35/SV

THE ALTERNATIVE

By Michelle Davis

Washington Post Magazine, April 11, 2010, pp. 22-29.

Younger students are giving community colleges a second look as a gateway to a four-year degree in a still-tight economy. As job losses rack up and family savings dwindle, more students who saw themselves going directly from high school to a four-year institution are instead enrolling at their local community college. Once known for the night courses they offered to usually older students who were holding down daytime jobs and had other responsibilities, community colleges now maintain daytime programs and specialized courses of study once only available in more expensive degree programs. Nationally, about 46 percent of students on community college campuses are younger than 21, according to a 2007 report from the American Association of Community Colleges, up from 42.5 percent in 2003.

2-36/SV

AMERICAN DREAM IN DECLINE?

By Chris Good

Atlantic Monthly online, March 15, 2010.

<http://www.theatlantic.com>

Most Americans think attaining the “American Dream” — opportunity, home ownership, financial success -- is getting harder, according to a poll conducted in February by Xavier University. A more disturbing finding of the poll is that 58 percent of the more than 1200 respondents felt that America itself is in decline. African Americans and Hispanics are the most hopeful in attaining the “American Dream,” the study found.

2-37/SV

ARE WE THERE YET?

By Jessica Bennett and others.

Newsweek, March 29, 2010.

In 1970, 46 women working at Newsweek filed a landmark gender-discrimination case and won. This article reviews that event and looks at the current status of women at Newsweek and in the workplace across the country. The authors conclude that while chances for promotion for women at Newsweek have improved, they are far from equal to that of men. Although 49 percent of Newsweek employees are female, men wrote all but six of Newsweek magazine's 49 cover stories last year. Nationwide, the situation isn't much better. U.S. Department of Education data show that, a year out of school, despite better college grades, young women take home just 80 percent of what their male colleagues do. Motherhood has long been the explanation for the persistent pay gap, yet a decade out of college, full-time working women without children still make 77 cents for every dollar males make. The Global Gender Gap Index -- a ranking of women's educational, health, political, and financial standing by the World Economic Forum -- found that, from 2006 to 2009 the U.S. had fallen from 23rd to 31st, behind Cuba and just above Namibia. Companies may have incorporated policies aimed at helping women, but they haven't helped as much as you'd think. "The U.S. always scores abysmally in terms of work-life balance," says the WEF's Kevin Steinberg. "But even here, [women] still rank 'masculine or patriarchal corporate culture' as the highest impediment to success." The four most common female professions today are secretary, registered nurse, teacher, and cashier—low-

paying, "pink collar" jobs that employ 43 percent of all women.

2-38/SV

ART AND NEW MEDIA

By Elizabeth K. Mix

Choice, Vol. 47, No. 8, April 2010, 1411-1412, 1414-1416, 1418-1423.

The author, a professor of art history, Jordan College of Fine Arts, Butler University, Indiana, notes that since writers come from a wide range of disciplines, it should come as no surprise that theoretical approaches used in the interpretation of technology-based art are similarly diverse. Each time technology has substantially changed, artistic practice has followed. One example was photography; often connected with modernism, it led to a flatness and focus on formal elements in paintings. Television and analogue video, the technologies first connected to post-modernism, hastened the development of performance art. Today, art forms driven by technology-based elements include internet art, virtual reality, digital video, interactive graphic design, bio/genetic art, cyborgs, digital performance, and online exhibitions. With the terminology associated with new media, it is now possible to provide a framework for understanding how art in its history, theory and practice is changing to keep pace as technologies evolve.

2-29/SV

CITIZENSHIP TODAY: Vicissitudes and Promise

By Peter Kivisto

Choice, Vol. 47, No. 6, February 2010, pp. 1015-1023.

In this review essay, the author discusses the rapidly expanding body of literature on citizenship studies and divides it into four distinct categories: inclusion, withdrawal, erosion, and expansion. In the United States, government exists to serve its citizens. Americans expect their government to protect their basic constitutional rights, including freedom of speech and religion, the right to equal protection under the law, and the opportunity to organize and participate fully in the political, economic, and cultural life of society. U.S. citizens also recognize that they have a responsibility to their society if they are to enjoy the protection of their rights. Americans willingly, for the most part, live within the law, serve on juries when called upon, pay their fair share of taxes, and exercise their right to

vote responsibly. Civic participation in the United States also means that citizens respect the rights of others, accept the authority of the elected government, and make an effort to be informed, involved, and invested in their communities and their nation.

2-40/SV

THE LUXURY IMPORTS ARE HERE

By Luke Winn

Sports Illustrated, Vol. 112, No. 9, March 1, 2010, pp. 58-61.

Foreign players are becoming as valuable to college teams as the top U.S. recruits. Thanks to a recent NCAA rule change, more overseas talent will soon be on the way. The sport which is especially benefitting from this is basketball, the first major sport created in the U.S., and one of the two most popular American sports (the other is baseball) that draws foreign athletes to American teams. International recruiting is not a recent phenomenon but a new NCAA resolution approved in January 2010 will, if it goes into effect next August, will allow players who have played in the pros but not signed an agreement to be eligible immediately. In return, this will require recruiters with international connections as the globalization of basketball has expanded the talent pool and schools are now finding players in less-exposed places like Iran, Argentina and Belarus.

BOOKS ALERT

2-41/B

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

By Susan Imbarrato, et al

Facts on File, February 28, 2008.

This is a thorough revision of Facts On File's three-volume set of the same title published in 2002. Volumes in the first edition covered the years 1607–1814, 1815–1914, and 1915 to the present. The revised edition's four volumes cover the years 1607–1815, 1816–1895, 1896–1945, and 1946 to the present. Main entries for writers occur in the volume chronologically appropriate to the publication of their first major work. A broad view of American literature is taken throughout. A highlight is the frequent inclusion of book covers, photographic and other portraits, manu-

script pages, and other illustrations.

2-42/B

GRANTS FOR LIBRARIES: A How-to-Do-It Manual

By Stephanie Gerding and Pamela MacKellar

Neal Schuman Publishers, January 2006) p.252.

The authors of this book take the reader through every phase of the grant-writing cycle, offering details, examples, and relevant tools. Dividing the process into 10 steps, each covered in a separate chapter, the book offers practical advice and easy-to-follow suggestions appropriate for every type of library. Highlights include a detailed strategic planning procedure, a process for selecting the right grant, writing the RFP and parts of a typical grant application, and implementing the project once it is funded (many manuals stop with the application process). There is a section of two-page spreads featuring real success stories. The accompanying CD-ROM contains these success stories and all of the book's checklists, worksheets, and templates, which can be downloaded and adapted to a specific situation. The glossary, bibliography, and index enhance its usefulness. This book should be at the side of every grant-writing librarian.

2-43/B

WEB 2.0 AND LIBRARIES: Impacts, Technologies and Trends

By David Parkes, et. al

Chandos Publishing (April 30, 2010), p200.

In a world where computing power, ubiquity and connectivity create powerful new ways to facilitate learning, Web 2.0 and Libraries examines how librarians and information professionals can utilize emerging technologies to expand service and resource delivery. With contributions from leading professionals, including lecturers, librarians and e-learning technologists, the book explores strategic approaches for effectively implementing technological change in your library.

2-44/B

WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?: Career Options for Librarians and Info Pros

By Rachel Gordon and Rachel Gordon

Information Today, Inc. (April 8, 2008), p288.

Every library professional—from new graduates seeking a first job to retirees looking for new challenges—can find something useful in this latest guide from

Gordon, author (The NextGen Librarian's Survival Guide) and LJ Computer Media columnist. She covers a range of nontraditional careers, including working for vendors and cultural institutions, setting up shop independently (e.g., as a consultant or information broker), performing information work such as knowledge management or competitive intelligence, working in information technology outside of libraries, and filling nontraditional roles within libraries.

2-45/B

WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND PARTIES, 3-Volume Set

By Neil Schlager et al

Facts on File; 4 edition (September 30, 2006).

Many changes have occurred in the world's political arena in the seven years since the publication of the third edition of World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties . This fourth edition provides a revised, updated, and comprehensive look at the world's political structure. Alphabetically arranged by country, the set covers the governments and political parties in 196 nations. There are 66 expert contributors, half of whom also contributed to the third edition. Some of the entries have been totally rewritten by new authors, and those that have been revised list the names of both the original author and the reviser. Each entry begins with an introduction or basic description of the country. Next, the executive, legislative, and judicial branches are discussed as well as the regional and local government structure. Both major and minor parties are examined, with information on their history, organization, policy, campaigns, and so on.

VIDEO ALERT

2-46/V

A FORCE MORE POWERFUL

DVD, Dolby, NTSC, 154 Minutes

A Force More Powerful explores how popular movements battled entrenched regimes and military forces with weapons very different from guns and bullets. Strikes, boycotts, and other actions were used as aggressive measures to battle opponents and win concessions. Petitions, parades, walkouts and demonstrations roused public support for the resisters. Forms of non-cooperation

including civil disobedience helped subvert the operations of government, and direct intervention in the form of sit-ins, nonviolent sabotage, and blockades have frustrated many rulers' efforts to suppress people. The historical results were massive: tyrants toppled, governments overthrown, occupying armies impeded, and political systems that withheld human rights shattered. Entire societies were transformed, suddenly or gradually, by non-violent resistance that destroyed opponents' ability to control events.

2-47/V

FAMILIES OF USA (Families of the world series)

DVD, 30 min.

Five-year-old Kyle lives in North Dakota with his parents and three brothers. They farm with his grandparents and several uncles and aunts and their families. We see how they harvest their grain, fix the harvesting machine, and take grain to the storage elevators in the nearby town of about 100 people. Kyle helps his mother bake caramel rolls, picks fresh peas and eats them in the garden while he shares some with his dog, and plays with miniature farm machines. Kristin and her family are African Americans, living in Wilmington, Delaware. They have a wide range of interests that take us to a computer class at summer camp, basketball practice, dance classes, church services and a Christmas concert, where Kristin plays the flute. We visit her classes at school, her father at work as director of a social service agency and watch her mother teach physical education to elementary kids.

2-48/V

INSIDE THE MELTDOWN

APPROX. 60 MIN, COLOR

FRONTLINE investigates the causes of the worst economic crisis in 70 years and how the government responded. The film chronicles the inside stories of the Bear Stearns deal, Lehman Brothers collapse, the proping up of insurance giant AIG and the \$700 billion bailout. It also examines what Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke didn't see, couldn't stop and haven't been able to fix

2-49/V

THE AMERICAN SHORT STORIES COLLECTION (10 Volume Set)

(DVDs, 2004), COLOR.

The American Short Story Collection first aired on the Public Broadcasting Service and was funded by The National Endowment for the Humanities, The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Xerox Corporation. It is a

collection of some of the finest short stories ever written covering a diverse range of topics by some of America's greatest authors such as Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mark Twain, and many others. Over the last century and a half, The American Short Story has not only produced some of the finest literature ever written, but also helped to define America, and the American experience.

2-50/V

THE ASCENT OF MAN

13 VOLUMES ON 5 DVDS, RUNNING TIME:676

Minutes

The Ascent of Man (1973) was a groundbreaking BBC documentary series, produced in association with Time-Life Films, produced by Adrian Malone, and written and presented by Jacob Bronowski. All New and improved DIGITALLY REMASTERED ASCENT OF MAN from the distribution rights holder! This 13 volume series attempts a massive survey of science, from flint tools to the theory of relativity. The series, a co-production of the BBC and Time-Life Films was made as a science counterpart to "Civilization". It is given superb technical support, with two crews using innovative filming techniques, shooting in 27 countries. Dr. Jacob Bronowski makes for an unorthodox narrator, his non-scripted delivery ranging from hushed awe to trembling passion. He uses the crawling infant, the performing athlete, the development of the hunt and the discovery of fire to illustrate the most distinctive feature of man: imagination. His Scientific-Humanism is often spectacular, always provocative

2-51/V

THE PAPER

DVD, FILM BY AARON MATTHEWS.

Over the last 20 years, public trust in the press has steadily declined. Documenting a crisis-filled year at Pennsylvania State University's campus newspaper, The Daily Collegian, THE PAPER explores the vital role of the press from a fresh perspective: America's future media makers. At a time when Penn State is churning with heated rallies, political debates and community concerns, the year's biggest stories are the Collegian's own problems. Circulation plummets amidst controversies over lack of diversity in the newsroom, faulty coverage of sexual assault and limited access to university officials. These issues raise questions about the Collegian's future: How will the newspaper stay financially viable as well as true to its mission of being the "independent eyes and ears" of Penn State? How will journalism students deal with such issues as decreasing circulation and rising barriers to investigative reporting? THE PAPER is a revealing portrait of the young journalists whose disillusion-

ment and determination are shaping the news of tomorrow.

2-52/V

OUR ICEBERG IS MELTING

(2 CDS) RUNNING TIME, 2 HOURS

This charming story about a penguin colony in Antarctica illustrates key truths about how to deal with the issue of change: handle the challenge well and you can prosper greatly; handle it poorly and you put yourself at risk. Their delightfully told journey illuminates in an unforgettable way how to manage the necessary change that surrounds us all. Simple explanatory material following the fable enhances the lasting value of these lessons. Our Iceberg Is Melting is at once charming, accessible and profound; a treat for virtually any reader. The characters in this fable are like people we recognize, even ourselves. Their story is one of resistance to change and heroic action, confusion and insight, seemingly intractable obstacles and the cleverest tactics for dealing with obstacles. It is a story that is occurring in different forms around us today – but the penguins handle change a great deal better than most of us. Based on John Cutter's pioneering work on how to make smart change happen faster and better, the lessons you can learn from this short and easy-to-read book will serve you well in your job, in your family and in your community. And these lessons are becoming ever more important as the world around us changes faster and faster.